

## Using Older Observations to Improve Ephemerides

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There is a wild variety of older planetary observations, each with its own set of circumstances, techniques and characters. Galileo, in 1612, observed Neptune and knew there was something unusual about that observation; he almost, . . . Lalande, in 1795, also observed Neptune and also noted something unusual about his observations; he, too, almost . . . Both of these Neptune observations are useful in refining our presently determined orbit for Neptune.

There are other observations, however, which cannot be trusted, and the reasons for these sometimes border upon the sinister. Two sets, in particular, are examined here: the too-good-to-be-true transit observations of Abram Robertson in 1811 and the suspicious eclipse measurements of Samuel Williams in 1780.

Abstract submitted for AAS [11A]] meeting

Date submitted: October 9, 1995      Electronic form version 1.6

[American Astronomical Society Abstract Form]

AAS Category 26

Running #:

Session 0.00

Oral preferred ☒ Dissertation abstract [-1]

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